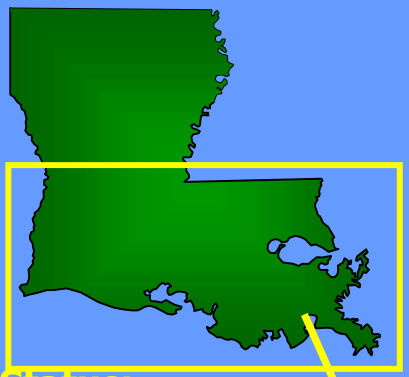
Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Ecosystem Restoration Study



- **Status:**
  Cong Add in FY 00
- **Sponsor:**
  State of Louisiana, Dept. of Natural Resources
- **Issue:**
  Required Funding for FY04 $5,000,000
- **Last Event/Date:**
  Submitted Pre-Draft report in Jun 03
- **Next Event/Date:**
  Submit Draft Report in Sep 03

Project Fact Sheet

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District, CEMVN-PM-M
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Date: August 2003

Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Ecosystem Restoration, LA (General Investigations): Comprehensive Coastwide Ecosystem Restoration Study

STUDY AUTHORITY: Senate Resolution 19 Apr 67 and House Resolution 19 Oct 67.

STUDY SPONSORS: The State of Louisiana, Department of Natural Resources.

STUDY LOCATION: The study area is Louisiana's coastal area from Mississippi to Texas. Louisiana parishes included in the study area include Ascension, Assumption, Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, and Vermilion. The entire Louisiana coast includes 9 hydrologically distinct basins, subdivided in 4 sub provinces.

STUDY PURPOSE: The purpose of the study is to identify and explore long-range, large-scale ecosystem restoration plans to restore and protect coastal Louisiana.

STUDY FEATURES: Study features include barrier island restoration, marsh creation, and river diversion.

STUDY COSTS: The LCA study is authorized to progress over a 10-year period at an estimated cost of $35 million ($17,500,000 Federal/$17,500,000 non-Federal).

STUDY SCHEDULE: The Comprehensive Coastwide Ecosystem Restoration study is scheduled for completion in June 04, which would make it eligible for inclusion in WRDA 2004.

STUDY BACKGROUND: As a result of the natural coastal processes and human activity, coastal Louisiana has lost over 900,000 acres since the 1930s. As recently as the 1970s, the loss rate for Louisiana's coastal wetlands was as high as 25,600 acres per year. The current rate of loss is about 16,000 acres per year. Without action, it is estimated that coastal Louisiana will lose an additional 320,000 acres by the year 2050.

• The various components of the LCA Ecosystem Restoration study will develop alternative plans to restore and/or protect the natural and human environment to create a sustainable ecosystem within the context of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem, including coastal Louisiana.

•Comprehensive Coastwide Ecosystem Restoration Study: This is an 18 month study to evaluate the 9 coastal basins and develop implementation plans for projects across the Louisiana Coastal area. Alternatives were derived from the Coast 2050 ecosystem restoration strategies. The 1998 document presents 82 regional ecosystem strategies for the restoration of coastal Louisiana. The types of alternatives included, but not limited to structural and non-structural solutions will: assure vertical accumulation to achieve sustainability of ecosystems; maintain estuarine gradients to achieve coastal habitat diversity; and maintain exchange and interface to achieve ecosystem linkage. The Preliminary draft report was submitted to MVD in June 2003. The final draft report is scheduled for submission in September 2003. The Comprehensive Coast Wide Ecosystem Restoration Study is anticipated to be included in WRDA 2004.

ISSUES: Required funding for FY04 of $5M (Maintain funding priority).

General Investigations

Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Ecosystem Restoration, LA Study

Status:

- Preliminary Draft report was submitted to MVD in June 2003. The preliminary draft report presented the tentatively selected ecosystem restoration plan for coastal Louisiana.
- Public meetings conducted on 4, 5, 6, and 7August 2003 to present the final array of coastwide restoration alternatives.
- Eleven executive stakeholder meetings were conducted from 29 July 2003 through 20 August 2003 to address problems, impacts, challenges, and opportunities for continued involvement in the LCA process.
- Final draft report scheduled for submission in September 2003.
- The projected cost estimate for full implementation of coastwide restoration strategies identified in the Coast 2050 Plan (1998) is $14B.
- The Comprehensive Coastwide Ecosystem Restoration Study is anticipated to be included in WRDA 2004, anticipate recommended plan approx. $10B with 4 major additional studies.

Cost:

Total Study Cost	$35.0M
Federal Cost	$17.5M
Non-Federal Cost	$17.5M

Issues: Funding